



REPORT OF THE 2000 - 2001 ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST

Westmount Collegiate Institute

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ABOUT THE TEST

The *Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test* was administered in October 2000 under the auspices of the province's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The purpose of the test is to ensure that students have essential reading and writing skills. The test measures whether students can successfully demonstrate reading and writing skills that apply in all subject areas in the *Ontario Curriculum* up to the end of Grade 9. Students must pass both the reading and writing components to successfully complete the test.

The test took place over a period of 2 ½ hours each morning on October 11 and 12, 2000. The test is divided into two parts: reading and writing. In the reading section, students read a number of short passages and responded to short answer, short answer with explanation and multiple choice questions. In the writing portion, students wrote a summary, a paragraph, a short report and a series of paragraphs supporting an opinion.

All students who entered Grade 9 in the Fall of 1999 were expected to participate in the test. For students who took part in the October 2000 test, successful completion of the test will not be a diploma requirement. For students who entered Grade 9 in the Fall of 2000, successful completion on the October 2001 test will be a diploma requirement.

CONTEXT FOR THE SCHOOL

Westmount Collegiate Institute is a school about to complete its fifth year of operation. At Westmount, students and staff are committed to and continually strive for excellence in academic, athletic and personal growth pursuits.

Westmount offers a wide range of academic and elective programs that meet the needs of all students. The school is semestered for Grade 10-OAC students and remains a year long non-semestered program for Grade 9 students. In addition, all programs are inclusive and sensitive to equity, gender, and the cultural backgrounds of the student population. Students with E.S.L. and Special Education needs have the support available to them to ensure that they are successful.

At Westmount, staff and students approach all challenges and relationships with integrity and discipline. We recognize and accept our responsibilities as productive citizens in our community, Canada, and the world at large.

RESULTS OF THE TEST

STANDARD IN READING

The student reads with reasonable accuracy and proficiency:

- demonstrates understanding of directly stated information
- usually connects relevant ideas and information to understand the meaning
- has moderate success in integrating personal knowledge and experience to extend meaning

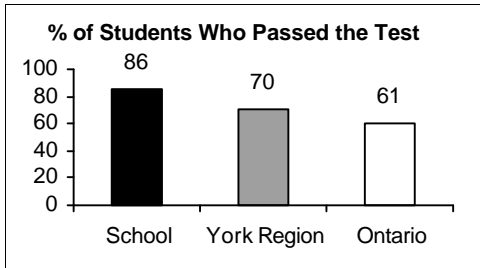
STANDARD IN WRITING

The student communicates in writing:

- demonstrates an ability to develop, organize, and connect main ideas with some supporting information
- writes in a variety of forms such as summary, opinion piece, news report, and informational paragraph
- generally uses appropriate words and sentence structure
- generally does not make errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation that impede meaning

Method 1: Results for All Eligible Students

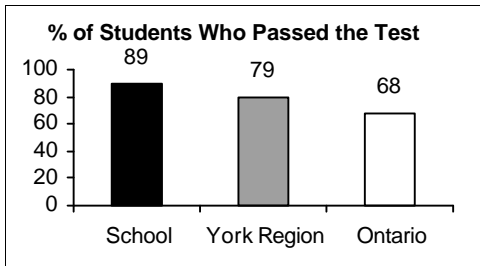
Method 1 expresses the number of students as a percentage of all Grade 10 students who are working towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, including students who were deferred or absent for all or part of the test.



	Number of All Eligible Students	Absent (%)	Deferred (%)	Failed both Reading and Writing (%)	Failed Writing and passed Reading (%)	Failed Reading and passed Writing (%)
School	265	3	0	3	6	2
York Region	6902	5	7	7	8	4
Ontario	140838	7	3	13	11	5

Method 2: Results for Fully Participating Students

Method 2 expresses the number of students as a percentage of all Grade 10 students who are working towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and who wrote the test, excluding those who were deferred or absent for all or part of the test.



	Number of Fully Participating Students	Failed both Reading and Writing (%)	Failed Writing and passed Reading (%)	Failed Reading and passed Writing (%)
School	256	3	6	2
York Region	6104	8	9	4
Ontario	126862	15	12	5

NEXT STEPS

The results from *Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test* will be carefully reviewed and used to guide our decisions about how to support literacy skills development in our students. We will continue to provide programs and services to support our students in meeting and exceeding the provincial expectations set out in the *Ontario Curriculum* including reading and writing across all subjects. Our student leadership and peer tutoring programs will also provide alternative means of support. In addition, the Board will be offering a variety of intervention strategies to assist schools in supporting students who are not successful on the test:

- English Literacy Skills - Grade 11 Open Course
- Summer school with a focus on literacy
- Academy of Reading -- computer-based skills course
- Literacy upgrading opportunities, e.g. after-school program

Westmount Collegiate Institute remains committed to ensuring success for every student and will continue to provide instruction and resources that enable all students to be successful in the future. We look forward to continuing to work with our School Council and community on our school plan and in supporting our students.